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Application No. 10/829,262 Amendment dated December 19, 2005 After Final Office Action of September 19, 2005 Docket No.: 0941-0950PUS1

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3, 4, 9, 13 and 14 have been amended, and claims 2 and 10-12 have been

cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Reconsideration of the application, as amended, is

respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 9-11 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Sato, U.S.

Patent 6,885,222. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge that the Examiner considers claims 2-8 and 12-19 to

contain allowable subject matter. Without conceding the appropriateness of the Examiner's

rejection, but simply to expedite prosecution of this application, it is noted that the limitations of

objected-to but allowable claim 2 have been incorporated into independent claim 1, and the

limitations of objected-to but allowable claims 10-12 have been incorporated into independent

claim 9. Accordingly, all claims should now automatically be in condition for allowance.

Favorable reconsideration and an early Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

In the event that any outstanding matters remain in this application, the Examiner is

invited to contact the undersigned at (703) 205-8000 in the Washington, D.C. area.

Birch, Stewart, Kolasch & Birch, LLP

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مافيات والإراب

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If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: December 19, 2005

Respectfully submitted

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